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Testimony by: Andrew Page
In Support of: H.B. 6552
Committee: Joint Committee on the Environment
Date: March 9, 2009

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and our nearly 174,000 constituents in Connecticut, I urge you to support H.B. 6552 to prohibit any person from operating, providing, selling, or using any computer software or service that allows a person, when not physically present, to remotely control a firearm or weapon to hunt a live animal or bird.

H.B. 6552 was introduced in reaction to the development of a click and shoot mechanism that operates like an Internet computer game. This operation based in Texas – Live-Shot.com – allowed clients to point and shoot a rifle via remote control. Live-shot.com was linked to a platform with a rifle and camera that could be remotely aimed at animals in what amounts to a video-monitored canned hunt. While Texas passed legislation banning Internet hunting in 2005, effectively stopping this activity on Live-Shot.com, an internet hunting system could be started or accessed virtually anywhere across the country – including Connecticut. Unfortunately, sick ideas have a tendency to spread. Furthermore, the operator of Live-Shot.com stated in a December 5, 2006 article in the *Arizona Republic* that “Internet hunting may go offshore,” clearly indicating his desire to continue to pursue remote-control hunting.

Internet hunting is unethical and unsporting. It doesn't take a very strict definition of 'sportsmanship' to see that this practice, if allowed to proceed, would violate every ethical standard that hunters profess. It would involve no hunting skill whatsoever, and would distance the hunter entirely from the act of killing, denying animals any of the 'respect' that hunters avow they feel for their prey. This pay-per-

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view slaughter has garnered strong opposition from The National Rifle Association and the Safari Club International, as well as animal welfare proponents.

This activity also poses serious safety concerns. Allowing anyone who logs into a website to fire a weapon into a hunting preserve is a danger to anything that crosses the gun's path—including non-target wildlife as well as people.

Since the inception of Internet hunting, 38 states have acted to ban this egregious activity by either legislation or regulation including the neighboring states of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. Most states have taken or are taking action to prevent the activity in their state. I encourage Connecticut to do the same.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Andrew Page
Senior Director, Wildlife Abuse Campaign
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